



## CALIFORNIA GRAPE & TREE FRUIT LEAGUE

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May 23, 2005

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
ATTN: Mike Holland

RE: Central American Free Trade Agreement  
POSITION: Support

Dear Congressman Thomas:

On behalf of the membership of the California Grape & Tree Fruit League, a voluntary public policy association representing approximately 85 percent of the volume of the state's table grape and deciduous tree fruit production, we are writing to communicate our support for the passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

We understand that essentially all of the food and agricultural products that the United States imports from this region are already duty free due to the Caribbean Initiative. Conversely, numerous food products, including those of our members, face varying degrees of tariffs. Although others have properly questioned the results of past trade agreements on the balance of trade of agricultural products, this agreement should provide a real opportunity to increase the amount of exports of those items that America, and California in particular, produces so well, namely healthy foods.

We applaud you for your leadership and support of this important initiative. If we can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barry J. Bedwell  
President